



Sheriff Charles E. Jett
Stafford County Sheriff's Office
A State Accredited Law Enforcement Agency



June 3, 2008

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Attention: Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

Subject: Dockets WT 02-378 and PS 06-229
Region 20 - 700 MHz Regional Plan

Dear Chief Poarch:

As the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for Public Safety and Homeland Security in Stafford County, Virginia, I am very pleased to share with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) our very strong support for the 700 MHz Plan of Regional Planning Committee 20 recently released for public comments¹. The County believes that this Plan represents a critical step in fulfilling the requirement of fully interoperable public safety and homeland security communications within the National Capital Region (NCR). This public safety communications deficiency was noted by the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in January of 2007² and our government has been working hard to overcome the DHS finding.

To join our NCR partners in achieving an interoperable communications system, Stafford County is investing over \$26,000,000 in new public safety communications systems, services, and facilities. The new first responder's communications system will primarily operate in the 700 MHz frequency band using the nationally adopted P-25 standard, and will use FDMA technology initially. Subsequently Stafford County will convert the system to spectrally efficient TDMA technology to meet the requirements of the Commission³. In addition to providing interoperability throughout the NCR, the County's new system will be interoperable with our neighboring counties outside of the NCR and support the National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee's nationwide 800 MHz mutual aid frequencies.

This system will support the public safety communications of Stafford County, of the Commonwealth of Virginia public safety agencies operating within our borders, and of

¹ See DA 08-1267

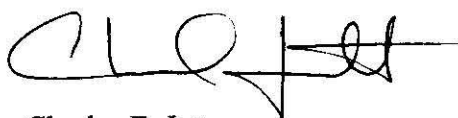
² See Tactical Interoperable Communications Scorecards, Summary Report and Findings published by the United States Department of Homeland Security at Page A-57.

³ See 47 CFR §90.535(d)

surrounding public safety communities located in and outside the NCR. To support this type of regional system, we anticipate that approximately 2,000 subscriber devices will be used by state, county, and local government partners. We believe that this system will represent a model of what the Commission envisioned when the rules for 700 MHz operations were developed⁴.

As we approach the goal line of this important project and on behalf of the citizens of Stafford County, we wish to thank the Commission for releasing the Region 20 Plan for comments. Our sincere hope is that the Commission will receive only supportive and favorable comments and rapidly issue an Order formally approving the Region 20 Plan for 700 MHz.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. E. Jett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles E. Jett,
Sheriff

Copy: Anthony J. Romanello, County Administrator
Mr. G. Edward Ryan, II, Chair of Regional Planning Committee 20
Mr. Jim Junkins, Chair of the Virginia Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

⁴ See proceedings related to Docket WT 96-86